

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

An apparatus and method for selective ablation of therapeutic coating material from the surfaces of generally tubular medical devices, such as stents or guide wires, ~~is~~ are provided. The medical device is rotated about its longitudinal axis, and a laser is operated in coordination with the rotational motion of the medical device to ablate a selected portion of the coating from the device, such as a portion of undesired coating. In a further embodiment, laser ablation of the coating on a medical device is conducted to reduce the amount of coating material on the device to a desired target amount of coating.